.(b) the details of amount allocated and spent, so far for setting up new post offices in the region, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices set up in North Eastern Region including the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years are given below:

Sl.	Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	-
2.	Manipur	4 1	2 2	1
3.	Meghalaya	1	1	
4.	Mizoram			
5.	Nagaland	1 2	2 2	1
6.	Tripura	16	15	
7.	Assam			
8.	Sikkim	1	3	-

(b) Rs. 4000/- per branch post office and Rs. 10000/- per sub post office were given to meet the non-recurring cost of each of the new post offices in the first two years of the 10th Plan. No Plan support has been given in 2004-05 as no plan targets were given for opening post offices. New Post offices were opened in 2004-2005 only through relocation of existing post offices.

Software/Hardware Exports

3159. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total software exports during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total hardware exports to various countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the plans of Government of compete with China as far as hardware exports are concerned;

(d) whether any target has been set for software exports in the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of software exports for three years, year-wise and state-wise are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The details of hardware exports to various countries for three years, year-wise are given in the Statement-ll (See below).

(c) Government is working proactively with industry for competing with China as far as hardware exports are concerned. Various steps taken by the Government for the promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware exports are given in the statement-Ill (See below).

(d) and (e) Indian Industry Projections for IT/ ITES Exports for Financial
Year 2005-06 are as under:

Types of Exports	2005-06 (US$ Billion)
IT Software and Services	15.2
IT enabled Services	7.3

Statement-I

Export of Computer Software and Services during the year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 estimated contribution of States/Union Territories

(Source ESC)

Region	States/Union Territories	2003-04		2002-03		2001-02	
		Rs.Cr	US$ MLN.	RS.CR	US$MLN	RS.CR	US$MLN.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
EAST							
	West Bengal	1600.00	347.83	1300.00	268.60	706.00	148.01
	Orissa	325.00	70.65	300.00	61.98	250.00	52.41
	Chhattisgarh	0.78	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Region Total	1925.78	418.65	1600.00	330.58	956.00	200.42
NORTH	Haryana	5000.00	1086.96	3511.00	725.41	2900.00	607.97
	Uttar Pradesh	3550.00	771.74	3100.00	640.50	2500.00	524.11
	Delhi	3500.00	760.87	2950.00	609.50	2300.00	482.18
	Punjab	190.00	41.30	70.00	14.46	70.00	14.68
	Rajasthan	150.00	32.61	47.00	9.71	45.00	9.43
	Madhya Pradesh	105.00	22.83	107.00	22.11	88.00	18.45
	Chandigarh	50.00	10.87	31.00	6.40	15.00	3.14
	Himachal Pradesh	5.00	1.09	3.00	0.62	0.00	0.00

	Uttaranchal	1.00	0.22	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.00
	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	0.22	0.40	0.08	0.00	0.00
	Region Total	12552.00	2728.70	9819.90	2028.90	7918.00	1659.96
SOUTH	Karnataka	19400.00	4217.39	14900.00	3078.51	11615.00	2435.01
	Tamil Nadu	8100.00	1760.87	8100.00	1673.55	5900.00	1236.90
	Andhra Pradesh	5650.00	1228.26	4500.00	929.75	3200.00	670.86
	Kerala	300.00	65.22	250.00	51.65	201.00	42.14
	Pondicherry	25.00	5.43	15.00	3.10	6.00	1.26
	Region Total	33475.00	7277.17	27765.00	5736.57	20922.00	4386.16
WEST	Maharashtra	9882.00	2148.26	7200.00	1487.60	6570.00	1377.36
	Gujarat	159.22	34.61	115.10	23.78	134.00	28.09
	Goa	6.00	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Region Total	10047.22	2184.18	7315.10	1511.38	6704.00	1405.45
	TOTAL:	58000.00	12608.70	46500.00	9607.44	36500.00	7651.99

Statement-ll

Comparision of Major Destinations for Electronic Hardware Exports
(2001-02 to 2003-04)

(Source—ESC)

Value: Rs. Cr.(US$Min.)

Destination	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Value	%age of Sectoral Total	Value	%age of Sectoral Total	Value	%age of Sectoral Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
USA & Canada	1238.53 (259.65)	21.35	1329.03 (274.59)	23.73	1845.73 (401.25)	23.97
Latin America	18.49 (3.88)	0.32	20.09 (4.15)	0.36	39.23 (8.53)	0.51
Europe (EU Countries)	1246.26 (261.27)	21.49	1467.97 (303.30)	26.21	2002.77 (435.38)	26.01
Europe (Non EU Countries)	48.04 (10.07)	0.83	52.81 (10.91)	0.94	77.42 (16.83)	1.01
Russia & CIS. Countries	96.86 (20.31)	1.67	51.74 (10.69)	0.92	84.03 (18.27)	1.09

African Countries	209.20	3.61	140.32	2.51	220.35	2.86
	(43.86)		(28.99)		(47.90)	
Middle East Countries	450.45	7.77	635.98	11.36	984.18	12.78
	(94.43)		(131.40)		(213.95)	
Singapore, Hongkong & other South Asian Countries	2123.58 (445.19)	36.61	1428.30 (295.10)	25.51	1825.50 (396.85)	23.71
Japan, Korea & other far East Countries	328.66 (68.90)	5.67	407.62 (84.22)	7.28	540.68 (117.54)	7.02
Australia & other Oceanic Countries	39.93 (8.37)	0.69	66.14 (13.66)	1.18	80.11 (17.42)	1.04
TOTAL:	5800.00 (1215.93)	100.00	5600.00 (1157.02)	100.00	7700.00 (1673.91)	100.00
Average Exchange Rate 1US$	47.70		48.40		46.00	

Statement-Ill

Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Exports

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%.

4. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.

5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/ Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).

7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical

export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years. 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.

9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

Bharat Nirman Scheme

†3160. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government for expanding telephone network in rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a plan of comprehensive investment for improving communication infrastructure in rural area under 'Bharat Nirman Scheme' and it has to be completed within 2-3 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outline of the future programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a large number of consumers have applied for telephones in Buxor (Bihar) and are not being provided with telephone connection since long; and

(e) if so, by when telephone connections could be provided to applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The following steps are being taken for expanding and improving the telephone network in rural areas:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.